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**Fwd: Update**

1 message

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**lanny wiles** <lannywiles1@yahoo.com>

Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 7:31 AM

To: esorokina@cogentlaw.co

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** lanny wiles <lannywiles1@yahoo.com>**Date:** March 9, 2019 at 12:30:36 PM EST**To:** nevo7@protonmail.com**Subject:** Update

In addition to update included are two suggested language for insertion into Congressional record that members have

Dear Bergei

I wanted to wait until this weeks work in Washington to address your message

Let me start by saying this has been much slower process than anticipated due to all the extraordinary issue that have consumed Washington. It has taken time to get the proper attention to your issue. This week was big steps we have two members of Congress who will be submitting facts of your case to the official record of Congress. While simultaneously we have talked with the State Department Office that prepares the human rights watch report and a member of Congress is sending a letter to state dept human rights watch office in support of you. I am awaiting possible support next week from The Helsinki Commission to oppose the Kazakhstan s government s unfair treatment of you and others. We have met with or spoken to additional members of Congress and organizations that are interested in your cause.

While this seems like there should be more we are on the right path and again the disarray in Washington has greatly affected the speed of setting meetings and decision making

Language for insertion into record members asked us to suggest

Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with what appears to be a politically motivated prosecution of a former governor of Kazakhstan's western Atyrau region Bergei Ryskaliyev, as well as 22 other people, including Ryskaliyev's family members and colleagues from the western oil-producing region of the country. This sham trial appears to be the next step in the Kazakh regime's efforts to silence legitimate calls of local citizens demanding oil revenue transparency, safe working conditions, and fair pay. Just not long ago, in the country's western oil-producing city of Zhanaozen a peaceful demonstration was crashed by Kazakh police, who opened fire on the protestors, resulting in at least 16 people killed.

The fact that Kazakhstan has a long history of discrediting and even criminally prosecuting members of the ruling elite when they are perceived to be gaining power and prominence, which was the case with Mr. Ryskaliyev during his time in office, points to the possibility of political motivation behind the prosecution. Additionally, independent NGOs and western legal experts who observed the trial, point out that there has been no sufficient evidence to justify the prejudicial findings regarding Mr. Ryskaliyev, essentially denying him a fundamental human right to a fair trial.

The U.S. State Department Human Rights Reports for 2015 corroborates that there is no such thing as judicial independence in Kazakhstan and corruption is evident at every stage of the judicial process.

As Kazakhstan is aspiring to be a strategic partner of the United States, I call on my colleagues to join me in urging the State Department to look into the case of Mr. Ryskaliyev prosecution and assure that it will be included in our Government's discussions on promoting democracy in this important part of the world.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention and that of my colleagues a suspicious case of what appears to be a politically motivated prosecution of a former senior Kazakh official, the governor of Atyrau Region Mr. Bergei Ryskaliyev.

The recent firing of the Kazakh government by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, constant discussion of his succession and some reports about the possibility of Nazarbayev's daughter Dariga Nazarbayeva becoming the next president, as well as recent reports by the European transparency groups that link dictator's daughter to alleged multimillion money laundering schemes, raise the question of the democratic future of Kazakhstan. The new prosecution and sentencing in absentia of Mr. Ryskaliyev suggest an aggressive approach by the Regime to silence opposition.

Lanny  
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